

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1       1. A device for monitoring a first person requiring  
2 supervision, comprising:

3       a controller programmed to receive at least one monitor  
4 signal from an environment monitor located in a monitored zone;

5       said controller being programmed to classify at least one  
6 alarm condition threatening to said first person responsively to  
7 said environment monitor to produce class data; and

8       said controller being programmed to generate an alarm  
9 signal responsively to said class data, said alarm signal  
10 including at least a portion of said monitor signal at least one  
11 of immediately prior to or immediately after an incidence of  
12 said alarm condition.

1       2. A device as in claim 1, wherein said at least one  
2 monitor signal includes at least one of a still image, video,  
3 and audio data.

1       3. A device as in claim 1, wherein said controller is  
2 programmed to recognize faces and said alarm condition is  
3 responsive to one of a recognition of a face or a failure to  
4 recognize a face.

1       4. A device as in claim 3, wherein said controller is  
2 programmed to solicit an action by an occupant, said monitor  
3 signal being responsive to said action by said occupant.

1       5. A device as in claim 1, wherein said controller is  
2 programmed to solicit an action by an occupant, said monitor  
3 signal being responsive to said action by said occupant.

1       6. A device as in claim 1, wherein said controller is  
2 programmed to recognize a speaker's voice, said alarm signal  
3 being responsive to one of a recognition of said speaker's voice  
4 and a failure to recognize said speaker's voice.

1       7. A device as in claim 1, wherein said at least one  
2 monitor signal includes a detector configured to detect a lapse  
3 in breathing by said person.

1       8. A device as in claim 1, wherein said alarm signal  
2 includes at least a portion of said monitor signal immediately  
3 prior to and immediately after an incidence of said alarm  
4 condition.

1       9. A device as in claim 1 wherein said alarm signal  
2 includes at least one of an audio signal, text data signal, and  
3 a video signal.

1       10. A monitoring system for monitoring the environment of a  
2 person requiring supervision, comprising:

3           a controller connected to receive at least one signal from  
4 at least one sensor;

5           said at least one sensor generating first and second  
6 signals responsive to a first state of a caretaker of said  
7 person and a second state of said person, respectively;

8        said controller being programmed to generate a first alarm  
9    signal when said first state is outside a first specified range  
10   and to generate a second alarm signal when said second state is  
11   outside a second specified range.

1        11. A monitoring system as in claim 10, wherein said first  
2    alarm signal includes a sample of at least one of said first and  
3    second signals.

1        12. A monitoring system as in claim 10, wherein said  
2    controller is programmed to generate a message to solicit an  
3    action by said caretaker signal when said first state is outside  
4    said first specified range.

1        13. A method of monitoring a person requiring supervision,  
2    comprising the steps of:

3        generating a first signal indicative of a status of a  
4    person or said person's environment;

5        detecting an event requiring the attention of a remote  
6    supervisor;

7        transmitting at least a portion of said first signal to  
8    said remote supervisor responsively to a result of said step of  
9    detecting.

1        14. A method as in claim 13, wherein said step of  
2    transmitting includes transmitting an electromagnetic signal  
3    including at least one of audio, video, and text data.

1       15. A method as in claim 13, wherein said person is an  
2 infant and said step of detecting includes detecting a lapse of  
3 breathing of said infant.

1       16. A method as in claim 13, wherein said step of detecting  
2 includes detecting at least one of an audio signal and video  
3 signal and classifying a predefined pattern in said at least one  
4 of an audio signal and a video signal.

1       17. A method as in claim 13, wherein said step of detecting  
2 includes detecting behavior of a person other than said child  
3 and in said child's environment.

1       18. A method as in claim 13, wherein said step of detecting  
2 includes at least one of recognizing a face of said person or  
3 another, classifying a body habitus of said person, classifying  
4 a physiognomy of said person, detecting a speed of movement of  
5 said person or another, detecting a number of persons in an  
6 occupied zone, and recognizing a voice signature, said steps of  
7 recognizing, classifying, and detecting being automatic machine  
8 processes.

1       19. A method as in claim 13, wherein said step of detecting  
2 includes detecting a failure of at least one of a movement of  
3 said person or another to move, speak, or generate any other  
4 detectable activities.